

Remarks

The Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of Claims 34 and 35.

The Applicants acknowledge the objection to Claims 17, 26 and 27. The Applicants have amended Claims 17, 26 and 27 in accordance with the Examiner's helpful suggestions. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The Applicants acknowledge the rejection of Claims 18-20 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. The Applicants have amended Claim 18 to change "or more" to "to 5.1 wt%." Support for the now claimed range of 3.1 wt% to 5.1 wt% may be found in the Applicants' Specification in Examples 109 and 116 which support that range.

Claim 19 has been amended to change the formula " $1.1 < n < 2.0$ " to - - $1.18 < n < 1.98$ - -. Claim 19 has also been amended to change " $0.3 \leq x + y < 0.94$ " to - - $0.58 \leq x + y < 0.94$ - -. The Applicants note that Tables 11-14 show the chemical compositions calculated from the compositions of the products in Tables 2, 4, 7 and 10. In Table 11, N is 1.18 in Example 1. In Table 14, N is 1.98 in Example 116. These constitute the basis of the range of N for 1.18 to 1.98. Similarly, in Table 11, $x + y$ is 0.58 in Example 3 and 4. In Table 12, $x + y$ is 0.94 in Example 15. This is the basis of the range of the $x + y$ of 0.58 to 0.94.

Similar changes have been made to Claim 20. The Applicants, therefore respectfully submit that Claims 18-20 are now in conformance with 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The Applicants acknowledge the rejection of Claim 32 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claim 32 has been amended to change the range from "1600 - 2000°C" to - - 1800-1920°C - -. Support may be found in Examples 21 and 23 in Table 4.

Also, the Applicants have amended Claims 26 and 27 to refer to a “nitrogen gas atmosphere” as an alternative to the “nitrogen-containing inert gas atmosphere.” Support may be found in Examples 1-8 located on Page 19 at the last line and extending into Page 20, Line 1. Also, a pressurized nitrogen gas atmosphere is used in Example 9 which is located on Page 21 at Line 25. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 32 now properly depends from Claims 26 or 27. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In light of the foregoing, the Applicants respectfully submit that the entire application is now in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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